

# **VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT (VAWA)**

## **ELIGIBILITY**

### **Eligible Applicants**

Applicants include, but are not limited to, state offices and agencies, public or private nonprofit agencies, units of local government, nonprofit and nongovernmental victim services programs. A local unit of government is defined as a city, county, town, township, or other general-purpose political subdivision of a state, the definition also includes Indian tribes, which perform law enforcement functions as determined by the Secretary of the Interior.

### **Grant Period**

Grants will be awarded for a 12-month period beginning July 1 and ending June 30. Programs will not be allowed to carry over or extend prior awards into the next fiscal year. Any prior award amounts remaining un-obligated as of June 30 will revert to the Crime Victim Assistance Division (CVAD). Grant programs are funded on a reimbursement basis and are subject to the availability of federal funds. Programs will be required to receive reimbursement via electronic transfer of funds (EFT).

### **Program Match Requirements**

Programs are required to provide 25% match from non-federal sources. Governmental programs are required to make 25% *cash* match. Non-profit, nongovernmental victim services programs are required to make 25% cash *or* in-kind match. All funds designated as match are restricted to the same uses as the VAWA grant and must be expended within the grant period.

VAWA programs must maintain records that clearly show the source, the amount, and the period during which the match was allocated. The basis for determining the value of personal services, materials, equipment, and space must be documented. Volunteer services must also be documented.

### **Non-Supplanting Requirements**

VAWA funds cannot be used to supplant or replace existing funds already allocated to funding programs. Grant funds may not be used to replace state or local funds (or, where applicable, funds provided by the Bureau of Indian Affairs) that would, in the absence of Federal aid, be available or forthcoming for programs to combat violence against women.

### **Reporting & Reimbursement Requirements**

All programs awarded grant funds must complete either monthly or quarterly claim vouchers requesting reimbursement, and program performance reports.

### **Programming**

Ensuring victim safety is the guiding principle underlying this funding stream. VAWA funds shall not be used to engage in activities that may compromise victim safety, such as:

- Offering pre-trial diversion or deferred prosecution to perpetrators;
- Mediation or couples counseling as a response to sexual assault, domestic violence or stalking;
- Requiring victims to report sexual assault, domestic violence or stalking crimes to law enforcement or forcing victims to participate in criminal proceedings;
- Batterer intervention programs that do not sue the coercive power of the criminal justice system to hold batterers accountable for their behavior; and
- Procedures that would force victims of domestic violence to testify against their abusers or impose other sanctions on them. Rather, procedures that provide victims the opportunity to make an informed choice about whether to testify are encouraged.